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Attorney for Applicants

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	10/009,254	Confirmation No.:	8298
Applicant	:	Elizabeth E. Adderson et al.		
Title	:	GENES FROM VIRULENT GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE		
Filed	:	December 10, 2001		
TC/A.U.	:	1645		
Examiner	:	Sarvamangala J. N. Devi, Ph.D.		
Docket No.	:	1321.2.29.1		
Customer No.	:	21552		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION: LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

Dear Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action of October 22, 2004. A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith to extend the response deadline until December 22, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner made a requirement that the Applicants elect an invention selected from the following six groups identified by the Examiner: (I) Claims 1-16 drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, a vector and a host cell comprising the same, and a diagnostic PCR method; (II) Claims 17-32 drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, a vector and a host cell comprising the same, and a diagnostic PCR method; (III) Claims 56-60 and 33-37 drawn to an isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and a method of immunizing a mammal by administering a protein comprising the protein; (IV) Claims 61-67 and 38-40, drawn to an isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of